

Athabasca Public School

Opening Entertainment

Star Theatre

February 20 and 21, 1914

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NEW PUBLIC SCHOOL, ATHABASCA, ALBERTA

PART I.

YORKSHIRE FOLK SONG - I'm Seventeen Come Sunday
Senior Girls

PART II.

THE PIED PIPER OF HAMELIN

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

The Pied Piper	-	-	-	-	VIOLET MILLS
The Mayor of Hamelin	-	-	-	-	RALPH CRAWFORD
His Daughter, Gretchen	-	-	-	-	ANNIE CRAWFORD
Elsa	-	-	-	-	EVA LABRANCHE
The Schoolmaster	-	-	-	-	HARRY MINNS
Hans, a bold, bad boy	-	-	-	-	HORACE WOOD
Gertrude, his Sister	-	-	-	-	HELEN FOX
Townspeople	-	-	-	-	CHILDREN

In view of the interest shown at present in the revival of Folk Dances, Morris Dances have been introduced into this play. They are the traditional dances, entirely spectacular and not social, and were distributed over nearly all Europe in the Middle Ages. The original instruments were pipe and tabor, and later, fiddles. Being out-of-door dances, they are emblematic of natural joyousness. Each has its own particular meaning. For example: the bean-setting dance, the first in the series, embodies the spirit of spring. The meaning of the dib and strike movement is obvious.

ACT I.

"Hamelin Town's in Brunswick,
By famous Hanover City;
The river Weser, deep and wide,
Washes its walls on the southern side."

SCENE I.

CHORUS OF CHILDREN

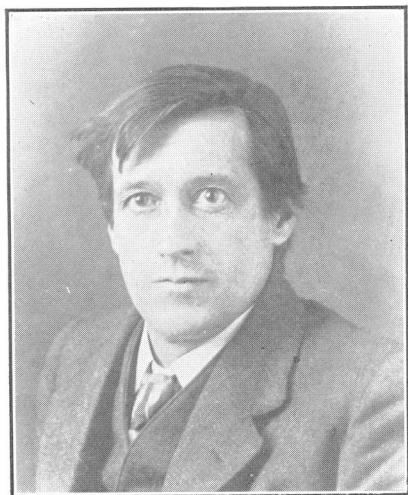
Multiplication is a vexation,
Division's twice as bad!
The rule of three puzzles me,
And fractions drive me mad!
Reading's a bother, writing's another,
And grammar makes me ill!
For moods and tenses my hatred intense is—
I'd sooner take a pill!

BALLAD

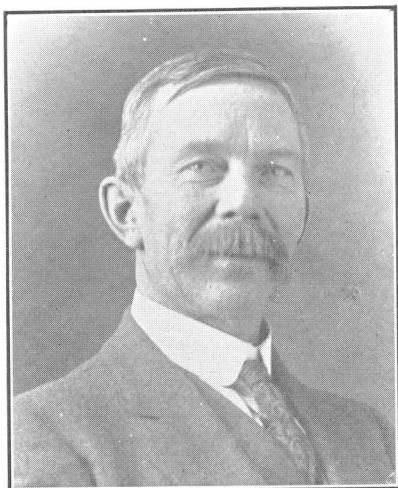
Gretchen

Archbishop Hatto

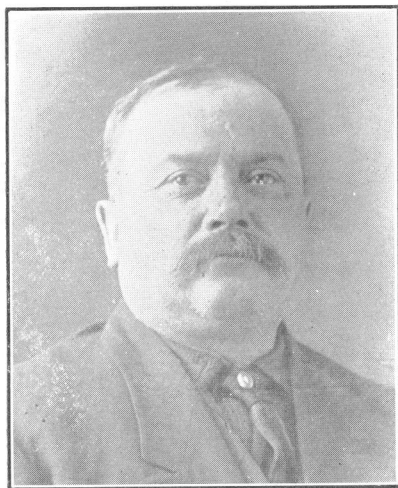
THE FIRST SCHOOL BOARD



W. RENNISON

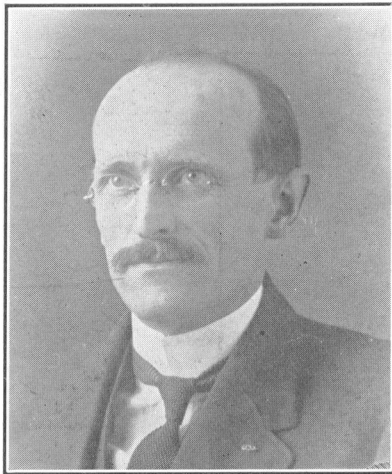


J. H. WOOD



I. GAGNON

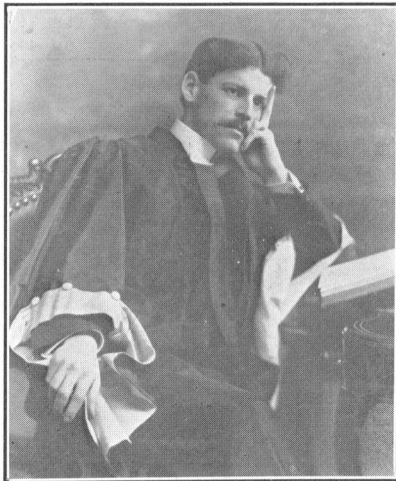
THE PRESENT SCHOOL BOARD



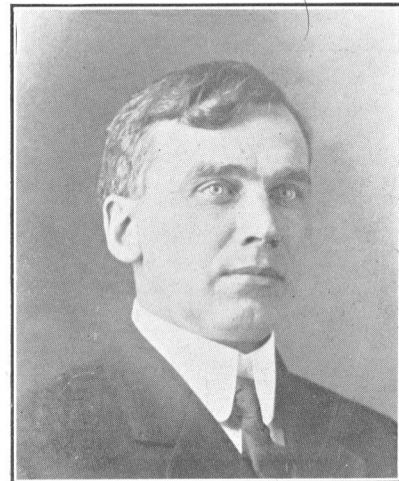
H. F. CULL, Chairman



J. MINNS



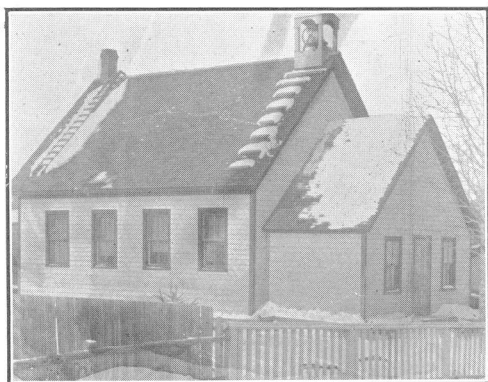
DR. J. OLIVIER



DR. D. R. MacDONALD

W. RENNISON

THE OLD AND NEW SCHOOLS



THE FIRST SCHOOL



THE PRESENT SCHOOL

CHORUS OF TOWNSPEOPLE AND CHILDREN

Rats! Rats! Rats! Rats!
They fight the dogs and kill the cats,
And bite the babies in the cradles,
And eat the cheeses out of the vats,
And lick the soup from the cook's own ladles;
Split open the kegs of salted sprats,
Make nests inside men's Sunday hats,
And even spoil the women's chats
By drowning their speaking
With shrieking and squeaking
In fifty different sharps and flats.
Rats! Rats! Rats! Rats!
Anything like the sound of a rat
Makes my heart go pit-a-pat!

SONG

Pied Piper

Please your honors, I am able
By means of a secret charm, to draw
All creatures living beneath the sun,
That creep or swim or fly or run,
After me so as you never saw!
And as for what your brain bewilders
If I can rid your town of rats
Will you give me a thousand guilders?

SCENE II.

CHORUS

Townspeople

Let us rejoice in heart and voice
For hope once again is ours!
With rats, this night, all tears and blight
Will vanish like April showers;
And every morn, at break of dawn,
We'll rise with the lark so gaily;
A meal prepare for our children fair,
To school then send them daily.

SCENE III.

INCANTATION

Pied Piper

INCANTATION OF THE RATS

I.

Great rats! small rats! lean rats! brawny rats!
Brown rats! black rats! gray rats! tawny rats!
Grave old plodders, gay young friskers,
Cocking tails and pricking whiskers,
Families by tens and dozens,
Fathers, mothers, uncles, cousins,
Brothers, sisters, husbands, wives,
Follow me quickly for your lives.

ACT II.

Early morning of the next day, in the market place

" You should have heard the Hamelin people
Ringing the bells till they rocked the steeple."

SCENE I.

CHORUS

Townspeople and Children

CHORUS

Townspeople and Children

King of rats! away!
Darken not our day!
Think not you dismay
Us with your display,
Nor that we shall pay
Men who fiends obey
In a magic way!
Away! Away! Away!
Wicked one, away!

Nor do you alarm
Us with threats of harm;
Powerless is your arm
To disturb our calm
Future life of balm
By an evil charm!
You we'll quick disarm!

Thank your stars and learn
We are mild—not stern,
For we do not yearn
Men like you to burn,
Tho' no better turn
Do you wizards earn,
You, we merely spurn!

INCANTATION OF THE CHILDREN

Pied Piper

INCANTATION OF THE CHILDREN

Oh, come with me to a joyous land,
Joining the town, and just at hand,
Where waters gush and fruit trees grow,
And flowers put forth a fairer show;
The sparrows are brighter than peacocks here,
And the dogs outrun our fallow deer,
And honey bees have lost their stings,
And horses are born with eagles' wings.

SCENE II.

CHORUS

Where are our children hid from view?

Townspeople

SONG

Elsa

By the Piper's charm I joined the throng
Of children, enticed by his wondrous song ;
For he led us, he said, to a joyous land
Joining the town and just at hand.
And quick he turned from south to west,
To Koppleberg Hill his steps addressed,
And after him we children pressed,
Great was the joy in every breast !
And just as I became assured
My lame foot would be speedily cured,
Lo ! We reached the mountain-side
A wondrous portal opened wide—
As if a cavern were suddenly hollowed,
And the Piper advanced, and we children followed,
And when all were in to the very last,
The door in the mountain-side shut fast !
The music stopped, and I stood still,
And found myself outside the hill,
Left, alone, against my will,
To now go limping as before,
And never hear of that country more.

SONG

A Mother

The Piper and children are gone for ever !
But we'll make a decree that lawyers never
Shall think their records dated duly,
If, after the day of the month and year,
These words do not as well appear :
" And so long after what happened here
On the twenty-second of July,
Thirteen hundred and seventy-six !"
And the better in memory to fix
The place of our children's last retreat,
We'll call this road : " Pied Piper Street,"
Nor will we suffer an inn or tavern
To shock with mirth this street so solemn,
But opposite the place of the cavern
We'll write the story on a column ;
And on the great church window paint it,
To make for ever the world acquainted
How our children were stolen away !
And " Serve the town right !" the world will say.

" GOD SAVE THE KING."